

those affected by cancer for well over a decade. Today, I am honored to recognize this important event, its participants, and its worthy mission. I am especially pleased to acknowledge and congratulate the supporters of Relay For Life in Bridgeview, Illinois. The work and dedication of these individuals ensure a brighter future for those affected by cancer and serve as an inspiration to all citizens.

#### A TRIBUTE TO MEL OLSSON

#### HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 20, 2007*

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mel Olsson on his retirement after more than three decades in service of our country's defense and the men and women who build the submarines that protect our national security.

Mel began his career at Electric Boat in Groton, Connecticut as a pipefitter apprentice in 1961. After decades of work at EB, Mel was eventually elected in 1990 as President of the Marine Draftsmen's Association, MDA-UAW Local 571. Serving as MDA President until 2003, Mel served on a number of negotiating teams, and was chief negotiator for eight successful contract negotiations with Electric Boat and Computer Sciences Corporation.

Mel has not only ably represented his colleagues in Local 571, but he has also been a community pillar in eastern Connecticut by serving in state and local organizations. Mel served on the Board of Directors of the United Way, is a member of the Work Force Investment Board, and serves on the Board of Directors of the Charter Oak Federal Credit Union. In addition, Mel is the former Chairman of the Electric Boat Community Services Committee, and is a member of the Stonington Democratic Town Committee.

Mel and his wife, Dorothy, reside in Mystic and have been married for forty-two years. They are the proud parents of their daughter, Alyssa.

Mel retired as a Piping Design Tech at Electric Boat on May 31, 2007, after thirty-six years of remarkable service. The men and women of UAW/MDA 571 and Electric Boat will miss his leadership and vision inside the gates at EB, but I know they will join me in saluting Mel Olsson and his outstanding and unique career in eastern Connecticut.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF CAROL SCHACHTER, FORMER CHAIR OF COMMUNITY BOARD 6 OF MANHATTAN

#### HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 20, 2007*

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Carol Schachter, the former Chair of Community Board 6 of Manhattan. Ms. Schachter is being honored this month at the annual dinner of the Board, which plays a critical advisory function in New York City's municipal government on a wide range of matters relating to the quality of

life in several neighborhoods on Manhattan's East Side.

Originally appointed to serve on Community Board 6 in 1995, Carol Schachter served with distinction as its Chair from 2004 to 2006. She currently is the Board's Secretary and Chair of its Business Affairs and Street Activities Committee, positions she also held prior to her election as Chair. As Chair of Community Board 6, Carol Schachter helped spearhead the effort to preserve the "Sobriety Garden" at Bellevue Hospital, an initiative she undertook with her husband, John.

Ms. Schachter also ably oversaw the development of the Community Board's 197-A and 197-C zoning and land use plans. With the closing of the Con Edison waterside plant, a large swathe of Community Board 6 will be rezoned. This offers the opportunity to create new parks and open space, as well as new schools. The 197-A and 197-C plans address these important land use issues as well as other significant concerns in the Community Board 6 area. The Board's final submission was thoughtful and inspiring, presenting a promising vision of the future for its neighborhoods.

As the Chair of Manhattan Community Board 6, Ms. Schachter led her fellow Members in carrying out the Board's challenging mission of reviewing and advising municipal government on a broad spectrum of public policies and issues, such as land use, zoning, and the City budget. With firm and effective leadership, Carol Schachter led Community Board 6 as it monitored the nuts and bolts of municipal government, as well, including the delivery of City services. She devoted herself tirelessly to improving the local quality of life on concerns including traffic congestion, deteriorating housing stock, sanitation pick-up and street cleaning, and the oversight of local bars and restaurants. As the Board's Chair, she ably represented the interests of residents and businesses in a large, diverse area of Manhattan stretching from East 14th Street to East 59th Street and from Irving Place, Lexington and Park Avenues to the East River.

In addition to her tireless service to Community Board 6 of Manhattan, Carol Schachter has been a dedicated civic activist. She volunteered her time and effort as President of the Stuyvesant Park Neighborhood Association, serves as a member of the 13th, 17th and 19th Police Precinct Councils, and helped found the organization All Out Arts.

Madam Speaker, I request that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to Carol Schachter for her outstanding service and dedication to the civic life of our nation's greatest metropolis.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 20, 2007*

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I regret that I could not vote on rollcall vote No. 502 through roll call vote No. 511, on June 19, 2007. Had I been present, I would have voted:

"Nay" on rollcall No. 502 on agreeing to the amendment to H.R. 2641, to reduce funding for the Army Corps of Engineers investigations by \$30 million.

"Nay" on rollcall No. 503 on agreeing to the amendment to H.R. 2641, to reduce funding for the Army Corps of Engineers construction by \$481 million.

"Nay" on rollcall No. 504 on agreeing to the amendment to H.R. 2641, to reduce funding for the Army Corps of Engineers Mississippi River and tributaries project by \$18 million.

"Nay" on rollcall No. 505 on agreeing to the amendment to H.R. 2641, to reduce funding for the Army Corps of Engineers operation and maintenance by \$184 million.

"Nay" on rollcall No. 506 on agreeing to the amendment to H.R. 2641, to Strike section 105 in the bill.

"Nay" on rollcall No. 507 on agreeing to the amendment to H.R. 2641, to reduce funding for the Bureau of Reclamation's water projects account by \$55 million.

"Nay" on rollcall No. 508 on agreeing to the amendment to H.R. 2641, to reduce funding for Bureau of Reclamation's policy and administration account by \$1.2 million.

"Nay" on rollcall No. 509 on agreeing to the amendment to H.R. 2641, to reduce funding for energy efficiency and renewable energy programs (Weatherization Assistance) by \$102 million.

"Nay" on rollcall No. 510 on agreeing to the amendment to H.R. 2641, to redirect \$20 million in funding within the Nuclear Energy account to support the Nuclear Power 2010 program from Gen IV reactor program.

"Nay" on rollcall No. 511 on agreeing to the amendment to H.R. 2641, to reduce funding for fossil fuels research and development by \$142 million.

#### THE VISITING NURSE ASSOCIATION OF CENTRAL JERSEY—95 YEARS OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE

#### HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 20, 2007*

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, today I would like to recognize the achievements of the Visiting Nurse Association of Central Jersey. Since its establishment in 1912, this nonprofit, voluntary organization has treated individuals of all needs and ages living in my district and the surrounding region. In its 95 years of service, the organization has undergone numerous successful expansions, helping it to become a top provider of hospice and in-home health care in central New Jersey.

With an original mission to improve prison conditions and approaches to public assistance, the agency over the years has broadened the type of community care it provides. Now it is most well known for its outstanding in-home services. These services are critical to individuals who need frequent and adequate care in order to remain in their own homes.

The association's team of nurses continually strive to keep up with in-home technological advances, ensuring that patients receive the latest in quality care. VNACJ looks after the aging population, founding a local hospice program in the 1980s and 1990s. At the other end of the spectrum, VNACJ also focuses its efforts on the needs of children. The organization has worked to expand handicap services

to children as well as establish parenting and nutrition education programs, children's shelters, and well-child conferences.

In addition to treating patients of all ages, the agency attends to all types of health matters. In the 1940s and 1950s, VNACJ played an important role in establishing Monmouth County branches of some of today's most important health care organizations, including the Heart Association, the Cancer Society, and the Cerebral Palsy Treatment Center. The agency also pays particular attention to providing health care services to migrants as well as veterans. Community immunizations and AIDS treatments are just a few of a comprehensive list of services the VNACJ provides.

Under the leadership of its chairman and my friend, Judith Stanley Coleman, and with the help of over 1,000 employees treating 100,000 patients each year, the Visiting Nurse Association of Central Jersey claims a spot among the nation's largest nonprofit in-home health groups.

On a personal level, almost every family in my district has, at one time or another, called upon the Visiting Nurses for help with a pressing health need. The reaction from the families I have spoken with over the years is uniformly positive: they deeply appreciated the warmth, the skill and the professionalism of the visiting nurses who came to their homes and helped their loved ones.

It is with great pleasure that I ask my colleagues to join me in commending the 95 years of quality care the VNACJ has provided to residents of central New Jersey.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE UJA-FEDERATION OF NEW YORK ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 90TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 20, 2007*

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to all the friends,

family and supporters of the UJA-Federation of New York on the occasion of its 90th anniversary. Since its establishment nine decades ago, UJA-Federation of New York has provided a voice of compassion and caring as the philanthropic arm of New York's Jewish community. Throughout its history, UJA-Federation of New York has been guided by its precepts of *chesed* and *tikkun olam*, while fulfilling its essential and righteous mission of extending a helping hand to those in need. Its extraordinary success in serving the underprivileged and disadvantaged have placed the UJA-Federation in the forefront of efforts to serve poor, the elderly, and people in need in New York, Israel, and throughout the world.

Ingrained with the compassionate and philanthropic spirit that has characterized Judaism throughout its history, UJA-Federation's record of generosity is unparalleled. It is ably led by distinguished civic leaders, including its President, Morris W. Offit; the Chair of the Board, Susan K Stern; and Executive Vice President and Chief Executive Officer John S. Ruskay. UJA-Federation takes pride in its dedication to strengthening communities, advocating for at-risk youths, empowering the disadvantaged, and educating people of all ages. Operating through more than 100 agencies, including some of the leading institutions in New York's 14th Congressional District that I am privileged to represent, such as the 92nd Street Y and Beth Israel Medical Center, UJA-Federation has helped more than 4,000,000 people in New York and throughout the world. UJA-Federation and its affiliated network have provided a vast range of vital services, including home visits to the housebound elderly; social and emotional support for Holocaust survivors in New York; scholarships allowing children from the metropolitan area to attend Jewish sleepaway summer camps; and counseling, peer mentoring, and workshops on education and prevention for women battling breast and ovarian cancer on Long Island.

The UJA-Federation's accomplishments extend far beyond our borders. Using cutting-edge technology, the UJA-Federation of New York has provided assistance to Jewish communities from Belarus to Buenos Aires. The

UJA-Federation makes possible initiatives such as teaching Hebrew to Ethiopian Jews immigrating to Israel, providing crisis counselors after the Beslan school hostage crisis, and furnishing 13,600 elderly Jews in the former U.S.S.R. with hot meals and companionship.

The UJA-Federation's compassion is also reflected in its commitment to emergency response and disaster relief. In 2002, the UJA-Federation formally established and funded the Israel Trauma Coalition, an alliance of medical and social service providers working to improve the trauma-response capacity of the Israeli mental health system, a program that has expanded from seven organizations to encompass more than forty agencies. Since the tragic 2004 tsunami that devastated Sri Lanka, India, Thailand and Indonesia, the UJA-Federation's Tsunami Relief Fund has successfully raised more than \$3.5 million that was allocated to the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee to support emergency and long-term aid to affected areas. In the United States, the UJA-Federation's Hurricane Relief Fund has raised more than \$5.1 million to provide desperately needed assistance to Gulf Coast communities ravaged by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005.

The steadfast and enduring commitment of UJA Federation-New York to serving others is reflected in its newly renovated building at 130 East 59th Street in New York City, where the Federation has been headquartered for half a century. The bright new facade, lobby, internal systems and office facilities reflect the dedication and bright future of the UJA-Federation of New York.

Madam Speaker, I ask my distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing the extraordinary success and achievements of UJA-Federation of New York on the occasion of its 90th anniversary.